

STATE OF IDAHO  
Fish and Game Department

Joseph C. Greenley, Director

Quarterly Project Progress Report  
CLEARWATER RIVER DEVELOPMENT OF  
SPRING CHINOOK AND STEELHEAD STOCKS

Project No. 88272402

Contract No. 03-5-208-00025

Period Covered: July 1, to September 30, 1974

Columbia River Fisheries Development Program

October, 1974

## Clearwater River Development of Spring Chinook and Steelhead Stocks

### ABSTRACT:

Indian Creek was the only incubation channel cleaned this quarter. Sweetwater Eyeing Station was not used due to the lack of excess chinook eggs at Rapid River Hatchery. Adult chinook returned for the first time to the South Fork Clearwater.

### REPORT OF PROGRESS:

Indian Creek hatching channel was the only channel cleaned for use this fall. The anticipated shortage of excess chinook eggs at Rapid River negated the additional expense of cleaning Crooked River and Red River channels for the coming season. The channel had a relatively small amount of organic siltation on the upper section, plus the usual amount of inorganic siltation throughout the channel. With the use of the Department's dozer and channel rake, the channel was well cleaned.

I did transport eight additional incubation stacks to the Sweetwater Eyeing Station from Oxbow Hatchery in the possibility we may have some additional green eggs from Rapid River for eyeing. The additional eggs at Rapid River did not materialize and two of the incubation stacks were transferred to Rapid River to hold summer chinook eggs.

Adult chinook salmon returned to the South Fork Clearwater River for the first time this year that could be directly connected to hatching channel operations and smolt releases. In the spawning ground trend sections established we observed 50 spawning adults and have made an unsubstantiated estimate of between 250 to 300 adults within the South Fork system.

The total Clearwater River system, excluding Clear Creek Hatchery, had an estimated redd count only 28 percent of the preceding year. This percentage was determined through established trend areas located throughout the drainage. Correlating these redd counts with past counts, an estimated 1300 to 1400 adult chinook entered the system.

Submitted by:

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